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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/597,403	06/21/2000	Takahiro Moro	862.C1931	7168

5514 7590 10/06/2006

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EXAMINER

BRINICH, STEPHEN M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/597,403

Applicant(s)

MORO ET AL.

Examiner

Stephen M. Brinich

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 87-107 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 87-91, 93-97 and 99-103 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 92, 98 and 104 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/11/06.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 87-91, 93-97, & 99-103 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakajima et al (6025929).

Re claims 87, 93, & 99, Nakajima et al discloses (Figure 4; column 4, line 29 - column 7, line 61; particularly column 4, lines 53-54; column 5, lines 1-2; column 5, lines 39-40; column 7, lines 42-46 & 52-61) an image processing arrangement using a plurality of process tables (e.g. a luminance-density conversion process table, an input data correction table, a masking process table, a tone reproduction curve table for each color, a binarize processing table). A database (Figure 21; column 10, lines 34-67) of process tables indicates their respective correspondences to a print mode, and determines which of these process tables will be loaded and used for each print mode.

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Further re claims 87, 93, & 99, Nakajima et al discloses (column 8, lines 31-35) the implementation of this image processing arrangement in the form of printer driver software (which is by definition a computer program product which is necessarily stored on a computer readable medium in order to be usable).

Re claims 88, 90, 94, 96, 100, & 102, Nakajima et al further discloses (column 7, lines 42-46) that the tone reproduction process uses three color correction tables (for cyan, magenta, and yellow) and a greyscale correction table (for black).

Re claims 89, 95, & 101, Nakajima et al further discloses (column 4, lines 48-49) that the luminance-density conversion process uses a color conversion table (RGB to CMY).

Re claims 91, 97, & 103, Nakajima et al further discloses (column 7, lines 52-61) that the binarize processing uses a plurality of dither matrix tables (either a "well-known pseudo-halftone processing" or "error diffusion" or "simple binarization").

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 92, 98, & 104 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten

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in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Re claims 92, 98, & 104, the art of record does not teach or suggest the recited plurality of margin tables corresponding to printer modes in conjunction with the recited arrangement of plural process tables corresponding to print modes.

Re claims 105-107, the art of record does not teach or suggest the recited determination of processing condition in dependence upon plural conditions including all of the recited conditions (paper quality, quantization method, and print quality) in conjunction with the recited arrangement of plural process tables corresponding to print modes.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning the contents of this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen M. Brinich at 571-272-7430.

Any inquiry relating to the status of this application or proceeding or any inquiry of a general nature concerning application processing should be directed to the Tech Center 2600 Customer Service center at 571-272-2600 or to the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199 or 571-272-1000.

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The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays 8:00-5:30, alternate Fridays off.

The examiner's unit designation has been changed from "Art Unit 2624" to "Technology Division 2625" (as of March 20, 2006).

If attempts to contact the examiner and the Customer Service Center are unsuccessful, supervisor David Moore can be contacted at 571-272-7437.

Faxes pertaining to this application should be directed to the Tech Center 2600 official fax number, which is 571-273-8300 (as of July 15, 2005).

Hand-carried correspondence may be delivered to the Customer Service Window, located at the Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.


Stephen M Brinich
Examiner
Technology Division 2625

smb
September 26, 2006